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PRESS RELEASE
“World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15, 2018.”

Did you know that every day 10,000 people turn 65 years old in the United States alone...and that trend will continue for the next 20 years? At the same time the elder population is growing, elder abuse is growing. Every year an estimated five million, or one in 10, older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation...and this is only part of the picture. Experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, as many as 24 cases go unreported.

North Carolina is a mandatory reporting state. That means that any person who believes a disabled or elderly adult is being abused, neglected or exploited is required to report the situation to the local County Department of Social Services. In Randolph County, please call the Adult Abuse Hot Line at (336) 683-8300 during normal business hours or 911 at any other time.

Exploitation of elders is on the rise all over the United States. This not only includes family or friends taking advantage of or taking money from the adults, it includes scams via the telephone or internet. There are ways elders can protect themselves from the many scams that prey on them. They include:

- Sign up for the Do Not Call Registry at www.donotcall.gov
- Shred junk mail, old bills, bank statements, etc. that have personal information.
- Don't give out personal information over the telephone.
- Particularly safeguard your social security number.
- You don't have to let yourself be pressured into anything.
- Never sign something that you don't understand.
- Screen personal assistance services or in home care services.
- Learn about scams and stay informed.

Last fiscal year in Randolph County, DSS investigated 146 reports alleging elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

- The adult child is the most frequently named perpetrator, followed by a spouse
- 97% were adults living in their own homes
- 3% of the reports were on individuals living in long term care facilities
- 40% were self-neglect and 45% were caretaker neglect
- 25% were a combination of both self-neglect and caretaker neglect

For more information on elder abuse, click on the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) at www.ncea.acl.gov or your local DSS.

The Piedmont Triad's Seventh Annual Elder Abuse Awareness Walk, Stroll and Roll will be on Saturday, June 16, 2018 at Triad Park, 9652 E. Mountain Street, Kernersville, NC. Registration starts at 9:00 am and it is FREE to participate.

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